



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family
Independence
Agency**

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Welfare caseload increased in November

LANSING – Family Independence Agency Director Douglas E. Howard announced today the November Family Independence Program (FIP) caseload was 73,922, on a par with the caseload in May 1970 when it was 74,171. The October 2001 caseload was 73,333.

Howard said, “Because we anticipated changes in the national economic climate, an increase in November’s caseload was expected. Our budgeting took that into consideration in advance, so we are able to meet the needs of Michigan families facing temporary financial difficulties.”

While the caseload has been increasing over the past year, it is still down 67.4 percent from the most recent high of 226,863 in March 1994.

Governor John Engler said, “Despite the expected economic downturn, more public assistance recipients are working today than at any time in the past. That’s good news for Michigan and an indication that our welfare reform efforts have been successful.”

Of the 73,922 cases in November, about 28,000 families (or about 37 percent) were required to participate in Work First and expected to work. Of the balance, about 22,750 were relatives raising children and about 22,750 had a temporary condition that excluded them from the employment requirements.

November data also show 59,706 families received day care for 113,585 children. The total Food Assistance Program caseload was 310,640 households representing 708,444 individuals. Since December 2000, this caseload has increased by 55,717 households, or 21.9 percent.

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For more information consult the FIA website at www.mfia.state.mi.us



JOHN ENGLER, Governor